

Dear Constituent,

As we move into September Dr. Henry reminds us that it is in our power to help control the curve by doing what we know works; hand-hygiene, not touching our face, keeping our bubbles small, keeping a safe distance. And as we continue to trust the science-based approach from our experts to guide us, we know that we can achieve the balance of returning to school and work, with continued safety.

If you did not catch it last week and would like to know about the safety plan of SD71, you can find it [here](#). Additionally, the \$242 million received from the federal government for school re-opening, is a welcome addition to each school districts as each district will determine the specific needs of their students and parents.

Province supports jobs and innovation in clean tech sector

With \$8.5 million in funding, our government is supporting made-in-B.C. innovations that will help grow our world-leading clean tech sector and create good jobs. This funding is part of our CleanBC plan, and it will contribute to a healthier environment, support local innovators and researchers, and drive economic growth. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMPR0043-001634>

8 new Electric Vehicle charging stations for The Comox Valley

It's exciting to report that the Comox Valley will be getting 8 new charging stations. This investment will encourage more people to choose to use electric vehicles and contribute to the fight against climate change, while exploring the island and supporting the local tourism economy.

<https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/news/comox-valley-will-have-eight-new-ev-charging-stations/>

Maximum allowable rent increase set at 1.4% for 2021

British Columbia's maximum annual allowable rent increase for 2021 is set at 1.4%, which is less than half of what it would have been prior to changes made by the Province in 2018. Prior to that change, the previous government allowed rent increases to be the rate of inflation, plus an additional 2%. By removing the extra 2%, renters living in a \$1,320-per-month apartment, which is the cost of the average two-bedroom rental unit in B.C., will save up to \$317 next year.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0103-001653>

New children's complex care transition centre coming to Vancouver

Health Minister Dix announced last week that a new transition centre to care for kids with complex medical issues will be coming to the BC Children's Hospital. He mentioned that "this will be the first centre in the country to provide such a comprehensive range of supports for children with medical complexity at a single site." (Dix) <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0260-001576>

Shoreline clean-up funds create jobs, protect coastal waters

Exciting news from the parliamentary secretary for environment, Sheila Malcolmson, on the funding that our government is providing for ocean clean up. \$3.5 million in provincial funding will help small ship tour operators, Indigenous Nations, local communities, and others participate in coastal clean-up efforts on our central coasts, including the increasing amounts of plastic waste. It will help clean-up 75-100 tonnes of marine debris while creating jobs, building partnerships, and supporting reconciliation.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020ENV0045-001613>

Overdose Awareness Day

I was fortunate to attend the event held at the Art Gallery in Courtenay commemorating International Overdose Awareness Day. I would like to thank the organizers Comox Valley Community Action Team, Indigenous Women's Sharing Society, AVI Health and Community Services Comox Valley, and Comox Valley Art Gallery. We remembered the lives lost - Someone's brother, father, son. Someone's daughter, mother, sister. Through our collective efforts we are working hard to raise awareness of overdose and end the stigma of drug-related death. See the video of the event here: <https://youtu.be/-ezvp8oynTU>

As we move forward into this Labour Day Long Weekend, I would like to acknowledge the value of workers everywhere. We thank-you for what you do, especially if you have been working in a frontline position or throughout the pandemic. Have a great weekend – be safe and be kind! Click [here](#) to view my Labour Day message with local labor leaders (available on Labour day)

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard

MLA Courtenay-Comox

COVID Resources:

- For medical info, visit bccdc.ca or call 811
- For provincial supports and BC's Restart Plan, visit gov.bc.ca/covid19 or call 1-888-COVID-19 (1-888-268-4319) or text 604-630-0300
- For employer guidelines on returning to work safely, visit WorkSafeBC
- Take the self-assessment at covid19.thrive.health
- For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit bc211.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RonnaRaeLeonard/>

Instagram: @ronnaraeleonard

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYLQfuaKQV-itCluryo2hQg>

Website: <http://ronnaraeleonard.ca/>

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